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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
ANRAKU et al.) Art Unit: 3679
Serial No.: 10/626,621) Examiner: Nicholson, E.
Filed: July 25, 2003)

For: Threaded Joint for Steel Pipes

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner of Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of all claims in the above-referenced patent application.

In review, claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on the combination of 4,871,194 to Kawashima et al. (Kawashima) when taken in view of United States Patent No. 6,027,145 to Tsuru et al.

The rejection is addressed by the following headings, PROBLEM, THE INVENTIVE SOLUTION, THE REJECTION, and ARGUMENTS.

PROBLEM

The invention is directed at the problem of present day threaded pipe joints having insufficient seizing resistance. Typically, the joints entail a metal to metal seal. Because of the oxide coating on the materials, sometimes the coating breaks off or galls. These loose coating particles can interfere with the joint fastening and unfastening, and can cause seizing or locking up of the threads, which can result in severe damage to the joint.

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